DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This Office Action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed April 29, 2009. Claims 29, 33, 37, and 38 are amended. Claims 1-28, 30, 31, 34, and 35 are cancelled. Claims 29, 33, 37, and 38 are independent. Claims 29, 32, 33, and 36-38 remain pending.

The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed May 6, 2009 was considered by the examiner.

Minor informalities objected to in the previous Office Action have been corrected in the instant amended claims. Accordingly, the objections are withdrawn.

Clarifying amendments are made herein by Examiner's Amendment to the independent claims. Accordingly, the outstanding 35 USC 112 rejection is withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Dhiren Odedra (Reg.#41,227) on July 16, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

<u>Amend claims 29, 33, 37, and 38 as follows:</u>

    29.   (Currently Amended) A recording medium having recorded thereon a video stream and a graphics stream, wherein:

    the graphics stream and the video stream are multiplexed and integrated into a digital stream;

    the graphics stream (i) constitutes a menu to be overlaid with a moving picture obtained by decoding the video stream and (ii) includes one or more interactive control segment and an object definition segment defining a graphics object;

    the interactive control segment includes a plurality of pieces of multi-page information and time information;

    the time information includes a presentation time stamp, a selection timeout stamp, and a user timeout duration all of which are associated with a playback timeline of the video stream;

    the presentation timestamp indicates a timing for displaying, as a current page, a first page of the menu;

    the plurality of pieces of multi-page information include one or more pieces of button information;

    the button information indicates information used to present ~~the graphic object in~~ a state of button material <u>as a graphic object</u> and to provide an interactive display composition on the page;

    the button information includes a set-button-page command that instructs a playback apparatus to set, as a new current page, a page other than the current page when a state of a corresponding button material is changed to an activated state;

the selection timeout stamp indicates a timing for automatically activating a button material presented on the current page to cause the playback apparatus to execute the set-button-page command; and

the user timeout duration indicates a timing for resetting the current page to the first page so as to display the first page only.

33.   (Currently Amended) A playback apparatus used for playing back a video stream and a graphics stream, comprising:

a video decoder operable to decode the video stream to obtain a moving picture; and

a graphics decoder operable to decode the graphics stream, wherein;

the graphics stream and the video stream are multiplexed and integrated into a digital stream;

the graphics stream (i) constitutes a menu to be overlaid with the moving picture obtained by decoding the video stream and (ii) includes one or more interactive control segments and an object definition segment defining a graphics object;

the interactive control segment includes a plurality of pieces of multi-page information and time information;

the time information includes a presentation time stamp, a selection timeout stamp, and a user timeout duration all of which are associated with a playback timeline of the video stream;

the presentation timestamp indicates a timing for displaying, as a current page, a first page of the menu;

the plurality of pieces of multi-page information include one or more pieces

of button information;

the button information indicates information used to present ~~the graphic~~

~~object in~~ a state of button material <u>as a graphic object</u> and to provide an interactive

display composition on the page;

the button information includes a set-button-page command that instructs

a playback apparatus to set, as a new current page, a page other than the current page

when a state of a corresponding button material is changed to an activated state;

the selection timeout stamp indicates a timing for automatically activating

a button material presented on the current page to cause the playback apparatus to

execute the set-button-page command; and

the user timeout duration indicates a timing for resetting the current page

to the first page so as to display the first page only.

37.   (Currently Amended) A method for recording onto a recording medium,

comprising: generating application data; and

recording the application data onto the recording medium, wherein:

the application data includes a video stream and a graphics stream;

the application data includes a video stream and a graphics stream;

the video stream represents a moving picture made up of a plurality of

pictures;

the graphics stream and the video stream are multiplexed and integrated

into a digital stream;

the graphics stream (i) constitutes a menu to be overlaid with the moving

picture obtained by decoding the video stream and (ii) includes one or more interactive

control segments and an object definition segment defining a graphics object;

the interactive control segment includes a plurality of pieces of multi-page

information and time information;

the time information includes a presentation time stamp, a selection

timeout stamp, and a user timeout duration all of which are associated with a playback

timeline of the video stream;

the presentation timestamp indicates a timing for displaying, as a current

page, a first page of the menu;

the plurality of pieces of multi-page information include one or more pieces

of button information;

the button information indicates information used to present ~~the graphic~~

~~object in~~ a state of button material <u>as a graphic object</u> and to provide an interactive

display composition on the page;

the button information includes a set-button-page command that instructs

a playback apparatus to set, as a new current page, a page other than the current page

when a state of a corresponding button material is changed to an activated state;

the selection timeout stamp indicates a timing for automatically activating

a button material presented on the current page to cause the playback apparatus to

execute the set-button-page command; and

the user timeout duration indicates a timing for resetting the current page

to the first page so as to display the first page only.

38.   (Currently Amended) A method for playing back a video stream and

graphics stream, comprising:

decoding the video stream to obtain a moving picture; and

decoding the graphics stream, wherein:

the graphics stream and the video stream are multiplexed and integrated

into a digital stream;

the graphics stream (i) constitutes a menu to be overlaid with the moving

picture obtained by decoding the video stream and (ii) includes one or more interactive

control segments and an object definition segment defining a graphics object;

the interactive control segment includes a plurality of pieces of multi-page

information and time information;

the time information includes a presentation time stamp, a selection

timeout stamp, and a user timeout duration all of which are associated with a playback

timeline of the video stream;

the presentation timestamp indicates a timing for displaying, as a current

page, a first page of the menu;

the plurality of pieces of multi-page information include one or more pieces

of button information; the button information indicates information used to present ~~the~~

~~graphic object in~~ a state of button material <u>as a graphic object</u> and to provide an

interactive display composition on the page;

the button information includes a set-button-page command that instructs a playback apparatus to set, as a new current page, a page other than the current page when a state of a corresponding button material is changed to an activated state;

the selection timeout stamp indicates a timing for automatically activating a button material presented on the current page to cause the playback apparatus to execute the set-button-page command; and

the user timeout duration indicates a timing for resetting the current page to the first page so as to display the first page only.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the cited prior art of record disclose the same combination of limitations as the instant recited claims. Previously cited prior art Reisman (US 2003/0229900) does not disclose that the graphics stream and the video stream are multiplexed and integrated into the same digital stream, as is required by the independent claims. No evidence can be found that such a feature would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

While other cited prior art references such as Shoff et al. (US 6,240,555) disclose multiplexing the interactive content streams with the video stream, they are lacking in other non-obvious features, particularly the timestamp features of the instant claims. None of the cited prior art disclose timing limitations exactly as recited in the instant claimed invention.

It is also noted that the playback apparatus recited in claim 33 is explicitly defined in the publication of the instant application paragraph [0272] as comprising hardware. Therefore, claim 33 is not interpreted as being software *per se* and is believed to be compliant with 35 USC 101.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Shoff et al. (US 6,240,555) Interactive entertainment system for presenting supplemental interactive content together with continuous video programs

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Alvesteffer whose telephone number is (571)270-1295. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Bashore can be reached on (571)272-4088. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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